

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The most significant difference between SMEZ and SMEZ-2 is an exchanged pentapeptide sequence at position 96-100, where the EEPMS sequence of SMEZ is converted to [[KTSIL]] KTSIP in SMEZ2 (Fig. 1). A second cluster is at position 111-112, where an RR dipeptide is exchanged for GK in SMEZ-2. The remaining 10 different residues are spread over almost the entire primary sequence.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

The half maximal response for rSPE-G and rSPE-H was 2 pg/ml and 0.1 pg/ml, respectively. Both toxins are therefore less potent than rSPE-C. Recombinant SMEZ was similar in potency to rSPE-C, with a P_{50%} value of 0.08 pg/ml and no detectable proliferation at less than 0.5 fg/ml. Recombinant SMEZ-2 showed the strongest mitogenic potency of all toxins tested or, as far as can be determined, described elsewhere. The P_{50%} value was determined at 0.02 pg/ml and rSMEZ-2 was still active at less than 0.1 ~~pg/ml~~ fg/ml. All P_{50%} values are summarized in Table 1.